Canada

CANADIAN COAST GUARD SHIP GORDON REID

The Canadian Coast Guard Ship, GORDON REID, is named in honour of Gordon Reid Sr., one of the first Native Indians in British Columbia to obtain his Ship Master's Certificate. Reid was renowned as one of the best navigators on British Columbia's west coast.

Born into the Heiltsuk Band, in Old Town (Bella Bella) on 17 September 1895, Reid began working on commercial fishing boats when he was ten.

During the 1940s he received his Master's Certificate and captained a number of packing and seining company boats. At the end of the decade, he bought the "Bertha G", operating her for the next seven years as a seining, trawling and general fishing boat. During the same period, Reid also worked for B.C. Packers, skippering a packer boat.

His nautical skills were in high demand among entrepreneurs trading along the coast because of his familiarity with the coast's commercial ports and his maritime qualifications. Reid also obtained his Steam Engineering Certificate at a young age and for a short period, worked at Namu, as a steam engineer.

When he retired at the age of 78, he still could not stop working. His last job was running the Hyster ferry between Bella Bella and the Millbank Cannery, on Denny Island.

Reid was proud of his culture and renowned as a native historian. You would often find him, surrounded by children, recounting his memories of early life and telling them stories about their people's first encounters with white man's culture.

Reid was also one of the first constables of his village and later became a provincial police officer. He was equally at home in both cultures, a sign of his appreciative and non-judgemental nature and of his firm rooting within his own culture.

Gordon Reid died in Vancouver at the age of 94.

The Canadian Coast Guard Ship, GORDON REID, is stationed in Victoria and helps patrol Canada's 29,000 kilometre Pacific coastline. She carries a staff of five officers and eight crew members and is on the lay-day system with a crew change every 28 days. Although not a large ship, her endurance and seaworthinesss make her ideally suited for search and rescue patrols in the rough waters off the west coast of British Columbia. She has a range of 2500 nautical miles and can stay at sea for more than a month before having to return to port for supplies.

CCGS GORDON REID
Particulars:

Length, Overall	**49.95 metres**
Length, Waterline	**45.00 metres**
Breadth, Moulded	**11.00 metres**
Depth to Main Deck	**6.135 metres**
Draught	**4.0 metres**
Power	**4732 BHP**
Fuel	**128.2 tonnes**
Fresh Water	**17.8 tonnes**
Cruising Speed	**12 knots**
Range	**2500 nautical miles**

The GORDON REID is specially-designed for search and rescue duties. Her stern launch ramp allows the ship's fast rescue boat to be launched and recovered in severe weather conditions. The fast rescue boat has a top speed of 50 knots and is constructed for search and rescue duties in rough and treacherous waters.

Once a survivor has been rescued, there is a sick-bay aboard ship, fitted with advanced first aid equipment, to treat injuries. In an emergency, the GORDON REID can accommodate over 40 survivors. Special emphasis has also been placed on the ship's accommodation to minimize crew fatigue on long rescue missions.

The ship has state-of-the-art navigational and search equipment as well as a 400 horsepower bow thruster allowing the GORDON REID to manoeuvre in tight spots. She is also equipped with fire monitors enabling her to fight fires at sea.

Besides her search and rescue duties, the GORDON REID can be called on to service navigational aids in coastal waters and do pollution prevention work.

The GORDON REID was the first Type 500 Search and Rescue (SAR) Class ship to be built. The ship was built in 1990 by Versatile Pacific Shipyards Inc. of Victoria. A second Type 500 SAR vessel, the JOHN JACOBSON, was built in 1991. Both ships are 49.95 metres long, 11 metres wide and have a draught of four metres. The ships can call on four Deutz six cylinder diesel engines to deliver a total of 4800 horsepower for a top speed of 16 knots or a cruising speed of 12 knots.

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